

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAJ-01 OMB-01 ACDA-10 IO-11

DLOS-04 SAL-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /106 W

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R 241006Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9020

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS BANGKOK 4172

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CB, TH

SUBJ: THAI-CAMBODIAN RELATIONS

REF : BANGKOK 4075

IN A FEBRUARY 24 NEWS CONFERENCE, DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER PRATUANG KAMPRAKOB ANNOUNCED THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE FEBRUARY 27 MEETING BETWEEN FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI CHUNHAWAN AND CAMBODIAN DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER IENG SARY, AND TOUCHED ON OTHER ASPECTS OF THAI-CAMBODIAN RELATIONS. THE FOLLOWING IS AN INFORMAL USIS TRANSLATION OF HIS REMARKS.

BEGIN TEXT:

REPORTER: WILL THE MEETING WITH IENG SARY BE HELD FOR CERTAIN ON FEBRUARY 27?

PRATUANG: HE HAS ASKED FOR THE MEETING TO BE POSTPONED.

REPORTER: WHEN DID HE INFORM US?

PRATUANG: HE INFORMED US A FEW DAYS AGO.

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REPORTER: WHAT NEW DATE HAS HE FIXED FOR THE MEETING?

PRATUANG: I BELIEVE HE WILL FIX A NEW DATE GISPHT BRMAF#

WEEK. THE SITE AND TIME HAS NOT BEEN DISCLOSED YET.

REPORTER: HAS THE MEETING BEEN POSTPONED BECAUSE OF THE RECENT CLASH, THE BOAT INCIDENT?

PRATUANG: OH, NO. IT ISN'T BECAUSE OF THAT CLASH. IT CONCERNS... IT MOST PROBABLY CONCERNS HIS SECURITY, BECAUSE THE SITE AND TIME SELECTED MIGHT NOT PROVIDE SECURITY FOR HIM.

REPORTER: WHAT FURTHER REPORT HAS BEEN RECEIVED REGARDING THE INCIDENT INVOLVING OUR FISHING BOATS?

PRATUANG: REPORTS RECEIVED ARE NOT MORE THAN NEWS KNOWN. THE CAMBODIAN BOATS WHICH FIRED ON OUR FISHING BOATS ARE BOATS CAMBODIA SEIZED FROM US AND ON WHICH IT INSTALLED GUNS. WHEN OUR FISHING BOATS WENT NEAR THOSE BOATS, THEY FIRED ON OUR FISHING BOATS WHICH FLED BACK WITH THE CAMBODIAN BOATS IN CLOSE PURSUIT, RESULTING IN A CLASH WITH OUR COASTGUARD BOATS. IN THE FIRING, ONE OF THE CAMBODIAN BOATS WAS SUNK AND THE REST FLED AWAY. I DON'T THINK THAT ANY PROTEST WILL BE MADE OVER THIS INCIDENT, THAT IT WILL MOST PROBABLY BE BROUGHT UP FOR TALKS THE DAY A MEETING IS HELD WITH IANG SARY.

REPORTER: BUT THEY ARRESTED SOME MEMBERS OF THE CREWS OF OUR BOATS?

PRATUANG: OUR FISHERMEN HAVE BEEN ARRESTED IN SIMILAR INCIDENTS VERY OFTEN.

REPORTER: HOW CAN WE OBTAIN INFORMATION REGARDING OUR FISHERMEN WHO HAVE BEEN ARRESTED?

PRATUANG: THE REPRESENTATIVE OF OUR MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IS IN POIPET MAKING CONTACT TO OBTAIN INFORMATION
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REGARDING THEM.

REPORTER: WE SENT AN OFFICIAL OF THE FUEL OIL ORGANIZATION TO HOLD NEGOTIATIONS REGARDING OIL WITH CAMBODIA IN POIPET A FEW DAYS AGO. WHAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE?

PRATUANG: REGARDING OIL CAMBODIA IS ASKING US FOR? I HAVEN'T RECEIVED ANY REPORT YET. FURTHERMORE, WE ARE FACING

A SERIOUS OIL PROBLEM ALSO, THEREFORE, WE MIGHT NOT BE ABLE
TO GIVE CAMBODIA MUCH AID.
END TEXT.
WHITEHOUSE

NOT BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BANGKO04172
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760068-1095
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760221/aaaaarwy.tel
Line Count: 121
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BANGKOK 4075
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: castelsl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 JUL 2004 by schwenja>; APPROVED <26 AUG 2004 by castelsl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THAI-CAMBODIAN RELATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, CB, TH, (IENG SARY), (CHATCHAI CHUNHAWAN), (PRATUANG KAMPRAKOB)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006